

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

5 1. A computerized method for information handling within an operating system,
comprising:

providing a record retrieval program;

providing an input device within a window or screen of the operating system and
configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and
remote information sources using the record retrieval program;

10 using said record retrieval program to enter first information into search fields
provided in said record retrieval program;

entering the execute command using the input device after the step of entering the first
information;

searching, using the record retrieval program, the local and remote information
sources for second information associated with the first information; and

15 displaying the second information in said record retrieval program, when one of the
local and remote information sources includes second information associated with the first
information.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

20 storing the first information in the local information source if no second information
associated with the first information is found in the local and remote information sources
during said searching step; and

wherein said displaying step, includes,

marking the second information found in the local information source as consistent
with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information

associated with the first information is found in both the local and remote information sources.

marking the second information found in the local information source as inconsistent with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in only the local and information source, and displaying the marked second information in said record retrieval program.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing a user the option of making changes to the second information directly in the local information source.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the step of using said record retrieval program comprises using said record retrieval program to enter first information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, or a part thereof, into said retrieval program; and

the step of searching comprises searching, using the record retrieval program, the local and remote information sources for second information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, associated with the first information.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the step of providing an input device comprises providing one of a touch screen, a keyboard button, an icon, a menu and a voice command device, configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources using the record retrieval program; and

the step of displaying the second information comprises displaying the second information comprising one of displaying a message screen with the second information and providing a voiced response of the second information.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing an input device comprises:
5 providing an input device configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources comprising at least one of a file, a database, a database program, a computer network, and a contact management program, using the record retrieval program.

7. A computer system configured to perform the steps recited in one of Claims 1-6.
8. A storage medium storing a program for performing the steps recited in one of
10 Claims 1-6.

9. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
providing a user the option of making changes to the second information directly in
the local information source.

10. The method of Claim 2, wherein:
the step of using said record retrieval program comprises using said record retrieval
program to enter first information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a
telephone number, and an email address, or a part thereof, into said retrieval program; and
the step of searching comprises searching, using the record retrieval program, the local
15 and remote information sources for second information comprising at least one of a name, a
title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, associated with the first
information.

11. The method of Claim 2, wherein:

the step of providing an input device comprises providing one of a touch screen, a keyboard button, an icon, a menu and a voice command device, configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources using the record retrieval program; and

5 the step of displaying the second information comprises displaying the second information comprising one of displaying a message screen with the second information and providing a voiced response of the second information.

12. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing an input device comprises:
providing an input device configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources comprising at least one of a file, a database, a database program, a computer network, and a contact management program, using the record retrieval program.

13. The method of Claim 3, wherein:
the step of using said record retrieval program comprises using said record retrieval program to enter first information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, or a part thereof, into said retrieval program; and
the step of searching comprises searching, using the record retrieval program, the local and remote information sources for second information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, associated with the first
20 information.

14. The method of Claim 3, wherein:
the step of providing an input device comprises providing one of a touch screen, a keyboard button, an icon, a menu and a voice command device, configured to enter an

execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources using the record retrieval program; and

the step of displaying the second information comprises displaying the second information comprising one of displaying a message screen with the second information and providing a voiced response of the second information.

15. The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of providing an input device comprises: providing an input device configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources comprising at least one of a file, a database, a database program, a computer network, and a contact management program, using the record retrieval program.

16. The method of Claim 4, wherein: the step of providing an input device comprises providing one of a touch screen, a keyboard button, an icon, a menu and a voice command device, configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources using the record retrieval program; and

the step of displaying the second information comprises displaying the second information comprising one of displaying a message screen with the second information and providing a voiced response of the second information.

17. The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of providing an input device comprises: providing an input device configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources comprising at least one of a file, a database, a database program, a computer network, and a contact management program, using the record retrieval program.

18. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of providing an input device comprises:

providing an input device configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources comprising at least one of a file, a database, a database program, a computer network, and a contact management program, using the record retrieval program.

5 19. The method of Claim 6, further comprising:
storing the first information in the local information source if no second information associated with the first information is found in the local and remote information sources during said searching step; and

 wherein said displaying step, includes,
10 marking the second information found in the local information source as consistent with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in both the local and remote information sources,

 marking the second information found in the local information source as inconsistent
15 with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in only the local and information source, and
 displaying the marked second information in said record retrieval program.

 20. The method of Claim 6, further comprising:
providing a user the option of making changes to the second information directly in
20 the local information source.

 21. The method of Claim 6, wherein:
the step of using said record retrieval program comprises using said record retrieval program to enter first information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, or a part thereof, into said retrieval program; and

the step of searching comprises searching, using the record retrieval program, the local and remote information sources for second information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, associated with the first information.

5 22. The method of Claim 6, wherein:

the step of providing an input device comprises providing one of a touch screen, a keyboard button, an icon, a menu and a voice command device, configured to enter an execute command which initiates a record retrieval from local and remote information sources using the record retrieval program; and

10 the step of displaying the second information comprises displaying the second information comprising one of displaying a message screen with the second information and providing a voiced response of the second information.

23. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

15 storing the first information in the local information source if no second information associated with the first information is found in the local and remote information sources during said searching step; and

wherein said displaying step, includes,

20 marking the second information found in the local information source as consistent with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in both the local and remote information sources,

marking the second information found in the local information source as inconsistent with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in only the local and information source, and

displaying the marked second information in said record retrieval program.

24. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

providing a user the option of making changes to the second information directly in the local information source.

5 25. The method of Claim 5, wherein:

the step of using said record retrieval program comprises using said record retrieval program to enter first information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, or a part thereof, into said retrieval program; and

10 the step of searching comprises searching, using the record retrieval program, the local and remote information sources for second information comprising at least one of a name, a title, an address, a telephone number, and an email address, associated with the first information.

26. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

15 storing the first information in the local information source if no second information associated with the first information is found in the local and remote information sources during said searching step; and

wherein said displaying step, includes,

20 marking the second information found in the local information source as consistent with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in both the local and remote information sources,

marking the second information found in the local information source as inconsistent with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in only the local and information source, and

displaying the marked second information in said record retrieval program.

27. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

providing a user the option of making changes to the second information directly in the local information source.

5 28. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

storing the first information in the local information source if no second information associated with the first information is found in the local and remote information sources during said searching step; and

wherein said displaying step, includes,

10 marking the second information found in the local information source as consistent with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in both the local and remote information sources,

15 marking the second information found in the local information source as inconsistent with the second information found in the remote information source, if second information associated with the first information is found in only the local and information source, and

displaying the marked second information in said record retrieval program.

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